

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE GRANT RECIPIENT FOR 1998: IVY CITY DECONSTRUCTION JOB TRAINING, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & POLLUTION PREVENTION

Grant Recipient: Sustainable Community Initiatives
Grant Title: Ivy City Deconstruction Job Training, Business Development & Pollution Prevention
EPA Project Manager: Mike Guiranna - guiranna.mike@epa.gov
Organization Contact: Jim Schulman, Director
631 E Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
Ph: 202-547-1079
E-mail: jschulmanl@igc.org
Project Period: 10/1/99 - 10/1/00
Affected Areas: Ivy City - Northeast Washington, DC

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT RATIONALE

In the Mid-Atlantic region, significant environmental and economic opportunities exist in the area of building demolition. While the mechanical demolition of old buildings has become popular over the past thirty years, deconstruction is an old process which involves dismantling buildings piece by piece and recovering the components for reuse or recycling. The purpose of this project is to establish an easily-replicable, community-based deconstruction business in the Ivy City neighborhood of Northeast Washington, DC as a means of preventing pollution and promoting sound economic development.

Traditional demolition creates great strains on solid waste management and the environment. Demolishing a typical building of 10,000 square feet will result in 40,000 tons of waste at a cost of \$50,000 to \$160,000 – while the implosion itself can result in the emission of potentially hazardous dust harmful to both human health and our environment. Through deconstruction and targeted materials reuse, however, the environmental impacts of demolished structures and their economic losses can be diminished.

The job potential for low skilled workers and community contribution must be emphasized as well. By training community members in life and job skills, the Ivy City Deconstruction Project will provide needed work and job potential in an area where over 50 percent of the population lives in poverty. The community will further benefit from the establishment of a revolving loan fund (via profits from reusable materials sales) to provide needed capital for Ivy City entrepreneurs.

The possibilities for this program are immense. Deconstruction itself is a process consisting of numerous material-handling steps, with labor and income potential at each. These and other areas of pollution/environmental concern may prove to offer additional opportunities to establish job

development and community-based entrepreneurial opportunities. Environmental benefits will also come not only from the deconstruction process but from the revitalization of an inner-city area, the new construction of walkways and parks to create community spaces and the sprout-up of greener businesses. Through its emphasis on the environment, economy, and community this project serves to further the goals of sustainable development.

SCOPE OF WORK

Funds from the Sustainable Development Challenge Grant will be used for Phase One of the Ivy City Deconstruction project. Steered by a Community Advisory Board, the project team will:

- Begin a pilot job development program to train 10 community members
- Create a business plan for the community-based deconstruction business, with profits remaining in the community
- Identify other entrepreneurial and job development opportunities in pollution prevention
- Integrate deconstruction into current and future environmental education efforts

Success will be measured by the number of buildings deconstructed vs. those demolished; the amount of open space created; the number of community members employed in deconstruction or a related step; rates of employment and poverty; and the number of community members employed in green businesses. To determine social benefits, the Community Advisory Board will survey community members.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Co-Venture Community
DANhIKO International
Dave Radius – Deconstruction Professional
Friendship House
Ivy City Patriots
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Laborers' International Union
National Association of Concerned Individuals